GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4502
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2001
MEETING WITH HURRIYAT LEADERS
BALRAM SINGH YADAV;KAILASHO DEVI

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pakistani delegation met the leaders of All Parties Hurriyat Conference despite India`s protest;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a)&(b) Pakistan President, General Pervez Musharraf, held a meeting with some leaders of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference, on 14th July 2001, during a tea party hosted by the Pakistan High Commissioner in New Delhi.

(c) Government are of the view that the visit of President Pervez Musharraf to India, and his meetings with the Prime Minister and other Indian leaders, was an opportunity for quiet and serious diplomacy to move India-Pakistan relations forward, in the direction of peace, friendship and cooperation. These occasions should not be frittered away in seeking propaganda advantage at home or abroad.

As part of its sponsorship of cross-border terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir and other parts of India, Pakistan`s support to groups directly involved in terrorist violence and secessionist activities is widely acknowledged. India has the resolve, strength and stamina to resist these forces.